

Consumer confidence up despite gas prices

By Matt Ott
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer confidence inched higher in March despite soaring energy prices brought on by the war in Iran.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose modestly to 91.8 in March from 91 in February.

The board said that while rising costs due to tariffs and spiking oil prices induced by the conflict in the Middle East did not affect the top-line confidence reading, there was increasing pessimism in other measures of the survey, including expectations of higher inflation.

Respondents' comments about oil, gas and the war spiked, and consumers' 12-month inflation expectations surged to levels last seen in August 2025 when anxiety over tariffs peaked.

U.S. gas prices jumped past an average of \$4 a gallon Tuesday for the first time since 2022 as the war caused fuel prices to soar worldwide.

According to motor club AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline is now \$4.02 — up more than a dollar before the war began. The last time U.S. drivers were collectively paying this much at the pump was nearly four years ago, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"This is the key concern as the war in Iran enters the second month — will the oil price shock turn into a demand destruction shock?," wrote Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union.

Long said that Navy Federal's credit card data from March showed that consumers were still making purchases across categories even as gas prices rose. But she said that could change in the second quarter "as the worst of the inflation shock hits consumers."

A measure of Americans' short-term expectations for their income, business conditions and the job market fell 1.7 points to 70.9, remaining well below 80, a marker that can signal a recession ahead. It's the 14th consecutive month that reading has come in under 80.

The index for consumers' assessments of their current economic situation rose by 4.6 points to 123.3.

Government data from earlier in March showed that an inflation gauge closely monitored by the Federal Reserve moved 2.8% higher in January in the latest sign that prices were persistently elevated even before the Iran war caused spikes in oil and gas costs.



George Walker IV/Associated Press

The sticker shock at the pump did not push down consumer confidence, but worries about inflation rose.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories — which the Fed pays closer attention to — core prices rose 3.1%, up from 3% in the prior month and the highest in nearly two years.

Consumer prices and prices at the wholesale level also remain elevated. Those higher prices and the prospect of even higher inflation due to the Iran war makes it unlikely that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates any time soon.

The Fed cut its benchmark interest rate three

times to close 2025 in an attempt to support a flagging labor market. However, because lower rates can exacerbate inflation, which remains above the Fed's 2% target, the Fed has left its overnight lending rate alone at its past two meetings.

While consumers' views of current employment conditions improved slightly, perceptions of the labor market six months from now edged downward.

The Labor Department reported earlier in March that U.S. employers unexpectedly cut 92,000 jobs in February, a sign that the labor market remains under strain. Economists had expected 60,000 new jobs in February. The unemployment rate rose to 4.4%.

Another report Tuesday showed that U.S. job openings fell slightly in February to 6.9 million from 7.2 million in January.

The surprisingly weak employment picture in February adds to the economic uncertainty sparked by the war with Iran, which has caused oil prices

to surge and saddled business and consumers with unforeseen costs.

The country's labor market has been stuck in a "low hire, low fire" state, economists say, as businesses stand pat due to uncertainty over President Donald Trump's tariffs and the lingering effects of elevated interest rates.

U.S. economic growth slowed to 1.4% in the final three months of last year, following two surprisingly strong quarters. Growth in the fourth quarter was dragged down by the six-week shutdown of the federal government and a pullback in consumer spending.

According to the Tuesday's survey results, consumers' plans to buy cars continued to rise in March, with used cars remaining the clear preference.

Homebuying expectations fell in March as the spring buying season kicks off amid a yearslong housing market slump.

Expectations that stock prices will be higher a year from now plunged, the board said.

ADA, Mich. — Amway said 2025 global sales totaled \$7.3 billion, down about 1% from the prior year, as growth in several international markets was outweighed by softer results in others, including North America and China, company officials said Tuesday.

The decline marks the fourth consecutive year the company, which is based in Ada and operates in about 60 markets worldwide, has reported lower annual sales.

Despite the dip, President and CEO Michael Nelson said Amway's overall business fundamentals remain strong and the company is seeing signs of renewed momentum in early 2026.

"We're wholly unsatisfied with another year of decline," said Nelson, who took over as Amway's CEO in 2024. "But we see strength in many of our key performance indicators."

He added that with the investments Amway is making in its business, including new health and wellness products, the company feels confident it is well positioned for the future.

Amway, whose products span health, beauty and home care, was founded in 1959 by Jay Van Andel and Rich DeVos. Today, the company employs more than 13,500 people worldwide, 2,400 of whom work in Ada.

The company's sales peaked at \$11.3 billion in 2013, with the most recent high of \$8.9 billion in 2021.

In 2025, Nelson said Amway saw strong growth in Vietnam, Taiwan, Central Asia and Latin America, as well as in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

China, after several years of rapid expansion, saw what Nelson called an 'exhale' following 7% compounded growth over a four-year period. North America also saw a decline.

In China, Amway's top market, Nelson said the slowdown largely reflected the challenge of sustaining the rapid year-over-year growth the company had posted in recent years. He said early results from 2026 indicate growth is beginning to return in that market.

LEGAL NOTICES

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713.362.6868

Notice to Creditors

Notice to Creditors

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration for the Estate of, Beryl Elaine Conway Deceased, were issued on March 19, 2026, under Docket No. 625269, pending in County Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas. Claims may be presented to **Truett C. Conway, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Beryl Elaine Conway, Deceased, 754 Columbia Lane, Deer Park, Texas 77536.**

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED: March 31, 2026

/s/ John W. Belk
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Independent Administrator
IPLHOU0133230

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Legals/Public Notices

Legals/Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT VARIANCE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

LEGAL NOTICE TEMPLATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the replating (or partial replating) of "Catera Villas being all or part of Lots 13 thru 24 Block 1, as recorded in Film code 597192 of the Harris County Map/Deed Records for the purpose of creating 10 Single Family Residential Lots and 2 Reserves.

The new subdivision name is **MCALPINE TERRACES**

This is the written notice of a public hearing the City send to all owners of property within 300' of the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a public meeting and public hearing on this replat. The Commission is the non-legislative body authorized to review and render decisions on subdivision applications and requests. The meeting at which this item will first be considered is listed below. A sign with this information has also been posted on the project site.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION:
Thursday, April 30th, 2026, beginning at 2:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex Building, 900 Bagby Street
City Council Chamber, Public Level, Houston, Texas

Members of the public may make comments or express concerns about the proposed project by attending the meeting at City Council Chamber listed above or send email to: speakercorments.pc@houston.tx.gov or call the Planning Department at: 832-393-6624 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Contact the applicant at (281)741-1998 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information.
IPLHOU0133067

TO ALL PERSONS WHO OWN PROPERTY WITHIN FOSTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing shall be held at the offices of Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77056, at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026, at which hearing the Board of Directors of the Foster Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Montgomery County (the "District") will announce its conclusions relating to land or other property to be excluded from the District and will receive petitions for exclusion of land and other property.

All persons who own property within the District have the right to present petitions for exclusions and to offer evidence in support of the petitions and have the right to contest any proposed exclusion based on either a petition or the conclusions of the Board of Directors and to offer evidence in support of the contest.

A petition for exclusion conforming to all requirements of Chapter 49, Texas Water Code, must be filed with the District at least seven (7) days before the hearing in order to be considered.

FOSTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

By: /s/ Carter Burton
President
Board of Directors

IPLHOU0133275

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Notice to Proposers

Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:

- RFP #26-03-12 – Temporary Employment & Training Services, Electronic submittals due by 1:00PM, Thursday, April 23, 2026.
- Contact: janeb.bradley@lonestar.edu or (832)813-6299.
- Must Register to Bid: <https://lonestar.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.

IPLHOU0133089

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Human Services – Workforce-Family Engagement & Outreach – RFP-HS-WKF-FE&O-04-26

The Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments, acting as fiscal agent for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, issues this Solicitation on behalf of the Board and Workforce Solutions to identify a qualified contractor to provide financial services to support the Workforce Solutions system. The Workforce Solutions - Family Engagement and Outreach program is designed to address and support the needs of families residing in the Gulf Coast region.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or ESBID (txsmartbuy.com).

Response Deadline: May 14, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT
IPLHOU0132738

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

SERCO of Texas, Inc.

Request for Proposals (RFP) & Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

SERCO of Texas, Inc. (SERCO) is seeking proposals and qualifications from qualified vendors to provide services for multiple regional offices and remote staff across Texas. The RFP includes Monitoring Services for Fire Alarm, Security Alarm, and Camera Systems.

The RFQ includes Agent of Record Services for employee benefits. The RFP and RFQ will be available on the SERCO of Texas website at www.sercooftexas.com beginning April 1, 2026. Responses are due May 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM (CST). Email requests to: Katherine.Taveras@sercohq.com

SERCO of Texas, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) are encouraged to apply.
IPLHOU0133044

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Human Services – Area Agency on Aging – Emergency Response Services – RFP-HS-AAA-ERS-03-26

H-GAC is seeking qualified Contractors to provide emergency response services for older persons living in the Texas Gulf Coast area.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or ESBID (txsmartbuy.com).

Response Deadline: May 7, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT
IPLHOU0131182

PUBLIC NOTICE – 9.005 Acres Montgomery County

Sale of Approximately 9.005 Acres of Unimproved Land.

Lone Star College System District is soliciting sealed bids from interested parties for the sale of a parcel of unimproved land containing approximately 9.005 acres, located in the William T. Dunlavy Survey, abstract 168, Montgomery County, Texas, and physically located along the West side of FM 1486, approximately 1.75 miles south of SH 249 and 0.50 miles North of FM 1774 in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of the City of Magnolia, Texas (the "Property"). Information on the Property may be obtained by contacting Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Elizabeth Clappitt at Elizabeth.Clappitt@jll.com 713.888.4075. Real estate brokers representing a purchaser / bidder will be entitled to receive a commission not to exceed three percent (3%) from the sales proceeds if such Broker and commission amount is specifically named and included as part of the successful purchaser's bid. This sale is subject to approval by the LSC Board of Trustees and LSC retains the right to accept any bid proposal or reject any or all bids regardless of the bid price, and to withdraw the property from sale at any time. LSC reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid proposal as deemed appropriate by LSC. It is the intent of LSC that the qualified bid proposal which results in the greatest net benefit to LSC shall prevail.

Sealed bids must be received in the offices of JLL at 4200 Westheimer, Suite 1400 Houston, Texas 77056 or before 2:00 PM (local time) on May 13, 2026.
IPLHOU0129386

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP-1090114 WILL BE RECEIVED BY STRATEGIC SOURCING, PORT HOUSTON, UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON APRIL 15, 2026, FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICES

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 1, 2026, AT 10:00 AM VIA TEAMS FOR INTERESTED VENDORS TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SCOPE.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: Bids - Workday Strategic Sourcing
IPLHOU0132087

Notice to Proposers
Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:
RFP #26-03-11 Travel Management Services, Electronic submittals due by 1:00PM, Wednesday, April 15, 2026.
Contact: jennifer.larue@lonestar.edu (832) 813.6794
Must Register to Bid: <https://lonestar.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.
IPLHOU0132037

Notice to Proposers
Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:

- RFP #26-03-08 Microsoft Enterprise Licensing, Electronic submittals due by 12:00PM, Thursday, April 16, 2026.
- Contact: pamela.johnson@lonestar.edu or (832)813-6782.
- Must Register to Bid: <https://lonestar.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.

IPLHOU0132041

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Enterprise Solutions – HGACBuy/Cooperative Purchasing Program – Grounds & Turf Equipment – GR07-26

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers and distributors of Grounds and Turf Equipment and to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or ESBID (txsmartbuy.com)

Response Deadline: May 14, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT
IPLHOU0132741

REQUEST FOR BIDS CSB-1090114 WILL BE RECEIVED BY STRATEGIC SOURCING, PORT HOUSTON, UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON APRIL 15, 2026, FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CSB- 1147166 Purchase of Electrical and Lighting Components Portwide

THERE IS NO PRE-BID CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR THIS PROJECT.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: Bids - Workday Strategic Sourcing
IPLHOU0133159

Notice to Proposers
Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:

- RFP #26-03-06 – Cohesity Software, Electronic submittals due by 3:00PM, Monday, April 20, 2026.
- Contact: clav@lonestar.edu or (832)813-6723.
- Must Register to Bid: <https://lonestar.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.

IPLHOU0132044

IDEA Public Schools
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

RFQ #45-MDNRS-0626 Medical Doctor & Temporary Nursing Staff Services in Texas

IDEA Public Schools is seeking Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified individuals and/or firms to provide medical doctor consulting and temporary nursing staff services to ensure continuous, safe, and compliant student health services across its K-12 charter school network in accordance with the instructions, specifications, terms, and conditions defined in this solicitation.

A copy of the solicitation can be found on the IDEA website <https://ideapublicschools.org/our-story/finance-budget/pcs/bids-rfps/>, Public Purchase <https://www.publicpurchase.com/gems/login/login>, or Tyler Munis Vendor Self-Service <https://tylervendorservice.ideapublicschools.org/vss/Vendors/default.aspx>. Sealed SOQs shall be submitted to **IDEA Public Schools Headquarters, Attn: Purchasing Department, 2115 W Pike Blvd, Weslaco, TX 78796 on or before 12:00 p.m. C.S.T. on Monday, April 20, 2026.** Documents must be clearly marked with the solicitation number and title. Statement of Qualifications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted and returned unopened.

For questions related to this solicitation, contact the IDEA Procurement & Contract Services Solicitation Team via email at solicitations@ideapublicschools.org.
IPLHOU0129356

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CAUSE NO. 541331

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Virginia S. Bryant, Deceased, were issued on March 19, 2026, in Cause No. 541331, pending in the Probate Court of Harris County, Texas to: Barbara Lynn Bryant, Independent Executor. Claims may be presented in care of the Estate addressed as follows: Paup, Shutt & Associates, P.C. c/o Mr. Aaron J. Shutt, 5020 Collinwood Avenue, Suite 200, Fort Worth, Texas 76107. All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
IPLHOU0133064

Legal Bids & Proposals

The Town of Delight is soliciting competitive bids for **24COR-063 PROPANE**. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance with solicitation documents posted at www.corustrustopg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by April 23, 2026, 3:00 PM CT.
IPLHOU0131740

Citation by Publication

TO:
Jonathan Hemmert, M.D.
PO Box 550849
Houston, TX 77255-0849
jonhemmert@gmail.com
The State Medical Board of Ohio
30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6127

In the Matter of:
Jonathan Hemmert, M.D.
Case No.: 25-CR-0099

On March 11, 2026, the State Medical Board of Ohio sent certified copies of the Findings, Order and Journal Entry approved and confirmed by the State Medical Board of Ohio to Jonathan Hemmert, M.D., via registered email to her email address of record, with no response. A copy of the order is available at www.elicense.ohio.gov.

Dr. Hemmert may be entitled to an appeal. Any party desiring to appeal this order shall file a notice of appeal with the State Medical Board of Ohio, located at 30 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, setting forth the order appealed from and stating that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with law. The notice of appeal may, but need not, set forth the specific grounds of the party's appeal beyond the statement that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with law.

The notice of appeal shall also be filed by the appellant with the court of common pleas of Franklin County or the court of common pleas in the county in which the place of business of the licensee is located or the county in which the licensee is a resident. If the party appealing is not a resident of and has no place of business in this state, the party shall appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County. In filing a notice of appeal with both the Medical Board and the court, the notice that is filed may be either the original notice or a copy of the original notice.

The party filing the appeal shall comply with all requirements of Ohio Revised Code section 119.12 (R.C. 119.12). The notice of appeal shall be filed within fifteen days after the service of the notice of the Medical Board order as provided in section 119.05 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Any questions or correspondence should be addressed to:
Colin Depew
Assistant Attorney
30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6127
legal@med.ohio.gov
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